

# Minutes



<b>Meeting</b>	Ipswich Vision Board
<b>Date</b>	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> September 2024
<b>Time</b>	09:00 hrs
<b>Location</b>	Orwell Room, Grafton House
<b>Present</b>	<p>David Ralph - Chair of Ipswich Vision Board (Chair)</p> <p>Helen Pluck - CEO, Ipswich Borough Council [IBC] (HP)</p> <p>Jack Abbott - MP for Ipswich (JA)</p> <p>Paul West - Councillor, Suffolk County Council [SCC] (PW)</p> <p>Naomi Smith - Deputy Area Lead for Suffolk Cities and Local Growth Unit MHCLG (NS)</p> <p>Mick Lazarus - Deputy Area Lead for Greater Lincolnshire Cities and Local Growth Unit MHCLG (ML)</p> <p>Andrew Cook - Executive Director for Growth, Highways &amp; Infrastructure, SCC (AC)</p> <p>Becca Jackaman (BJ)</p> <p>Neil McDonald - Leader of IBC (NMCD)</p> <p>Alan Pease - SCC (AP)</p> <p>Lee Walker - CEO of Ipswich Central (LW)</p> <p>Jenny Higham - Vice Chancellor, University of Suffolk (JH)</p> <p>James Fairclough - Director of Operations and Place, IBC (JF)</p> <p>Marlon Bruce - Head of Towns Fund, IBC (MB)</p> <p>Sharon Earp - Representative for Patrick Spencer (SE)</p> <p>Julia Rusek - IBC (Minutes)</p>
<b>Apologies</b>	<p>Patrick Spencer, MP for Central Suffolk and North Ipswich (PS)</p> <p>James Davey, Director, Ipswich Small Business Association (JDa)</p> <p>John Dugmore, Chamber of Commerce (JD)</p>

## Items:

		<b>Action</b>
	<b>Previous Minutes &amp; matters arising:</b>	

	Nothing to report.	
	<p><b>Vision Project Updates:</b></p> <p><u>Waterfront:</u> JH has received unanimous support from the group and organisations have begun being approached to secure funding.</p> <p>PW informed that following the Ipswich investment fund, the second phase of lighting can be completed.</p> <p><u>Connected Towns:</u> LW informed that factors are connecting organically with broad support on housing inside the town centre. The objective is to build a community that will benefit from this day to day, with a focus on honest conversations surrounding progress. This in turn will allow businesses to grow.</p> <p><u>Wolsey 550:</u> LW informed this has now concluded and received amazing engagement, bringing in thousands of people.</p> <p>The Stoke Bridge Project to be facilitated by Wolsey 550 has been awarded funding from the SCC PDP.</p> <p><u>Ipswich as a Destination:</u> HP explained this is about creating a positive narrative around Ipswich and eventually gaining support from local communities and businesses, facilitating the route to gaining a city status.</p> <p>A distinctive tone of voice must be utilised which resonates with different types of people who work, live and study in Ipswich, while also attracting investors.</p> <p><u>Brand Ipswich:</u> 5 economic sectors are being investigated with a place branding specialist:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Advanced manufacture,</li> <li>2) Arts, culture and heritage,</li> <li>3) Logistics,</li> <li>4) Construction,</li> <li>5) Education.</li> </ol> <p>Most investigations will occur between now and Christmas, however a specific date cannot be specified.</p> <p>It was agreed that the comms team will be invited around the table to discuss the findings and whether it resonates with the institutions involved.</p> <p><u>Devolution:</u> AC informed that central government have decided not to proceed with devolution for Suffolk. Further discussions are awaited.</p> <p>AC stated that Suffolk remains keen to explore devolution opportunities and would like to apply once again.</p>	HP

<b>3.0</b>	<p><b>Compliance and Transparency Checks</b></p> <p>MB informed that following an analysis by the Ministry of Housing, Communities &amp; Local Government (MHCLG) this summer, 93% of town vision boards are not compliant.</p> <p>MB has requested that everyone submit their declaration of interest, profile, and nomination of substitutes in line with the Nolan Principles and Code of Conduct by the 27<sup>th</sup> of September.</p> <p>Chair will share examples of Codes of Conduct with MB.</p> <p>ML informed that March 2026 is the deadline for spending. If any issues occur, he advises the Board to reach out to discuss.</p>	<p><b>Everyone</b></p> <p><b>Chair</b></p>
<b>4.0</b>	<p><b>Town Fund Update – Highlight Report (JF Updates)</b></p> <p><u>Shopping Parades:</u> CCTV installation and lighting works are progressing uninterrupted.</p> <p>The first applications of the shop front grants following the release of phase 2 will be evaluated in the coming weeks. Further applications will be considered in November.</p> <p><u>Public Realm and Greening:</u> The project is reported as amber due to funding difficulties; however, a project adjustment request has been submitted and is pending approval.</p> <p><u>Lloyds Avenue:</u> Public consultations close on the 26<sup>th</sup> of September.</p> <p><u>Greener Ipswich:</u> Following the consultation in August, feedback was positive with many supporting the project. The only identifiable issue is funding.</p> <p>Underground services have caused alterations to the plan, resulting in less trees being planted on Princes Street and St Nicholas St.</p> <p>Throughout the project, the area became known as Wolsey Square. JF will investigate renaming the area as such, with support from the Board due to the heritage behind this project.</p> <p><u>Digital Ipswich:</u> Procurement is proceeding with positive feedback following the summer trial where 1,500 people participated.</p> <p><u>Pedestrian Bridge:</u> Proceeding as planned.</p> <p><u>Paul's Silo:</u> The second reference on the agenda should be for the Yacht Academy.</p> <p><u>Regeneration Fund, HP updates:</u></p>	<p><b>JF</b></p>

	<p>21 applications were received and assessed by the independent expert panel. With recommendations presented to IBC Executive. A total of 5 projects identified as viable and will move to developing fuller applications of intentions.</p> <p>Successful and unsuccessful applicants will be contacted post September 18<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>IBC wish to evoke strand 2 of the Regeneration fund where the council act as the developer to bring longstanding empty buildings back in to use</p> <p>HP has discussed this with TVB members of the Board who have expressed their support in writing.</p> <p>All members unanimously agreed for IBC to proceed strand 2.</p>	
	<p><b>Monitoring and Evaluation</b></p> <p>No issues or queries have been raised; however, an official chair must be selected following the departure of Dr Dan Poulter. The Board is agreed to formally appoint James Davey (JD) to continue as chair.</p> <p>The TVB Chair to progress the appointment of the Chair of the M&amp;E group and there will need to be consideration of appointing an additional member to Monitoring and evaluation group.</p> <p>HP advised that no one from this group or anyone who associates closely with the Board should volunteer in order to maintain the independence of the M&amp;E group</p>	DR
	<p><b>Any Other Business:</b></p> <p>IBC is responsible for the comms of the Board. HP informed that anything that goes out on behalf of the Board is promoted by all shareholders and discussed as part of the agenda when and if it comes up.</p> <p>The Board unanimously agreed to hold future meetings on Friday's at 9am.</p>	
	<p><b>Date of Future Meetings:</b></p> <p>9am 13<sup>th</sup> December 2024, Grafton House.</p>	